The Lion Lady

The Solutions of Radford Shone

Narratives by Officers of the Provincial Police, as to Dealings with the Eminent Expert, Mr. Radford Shone. Edited by HEADON HILL.



separate claim on my interest, inasmuch as it first brought me into touch with Radford Shone, the much talked of solver of mysteries.

I had heard, by the side winds that come to us, of the results gained by this marvelous man, who, from his bachelor rooms in Gower street, reconciled dukes and duchesses over missing tiaras, used bloodhounds in the wilds had his fingers on the secrets of kings and queens-always with such tactful finesse that justice was done without a policeman having to tighten his belt or a judge to don his wig.

I was not incredulous-only curious, so I was well pleased when my old Eton school fellow's amazing story brought me the chance of gratifying that curiosity.

I had not seen Sir Angus Petrie for four years-since, in fact, he had disappeared into the South African war cloud at the head of a troop of imperial yeomanry. When he was shown into the room which I occupy at Scotland Yard as an assistant commissioner of police, I hardly knew him. As years go he was still a young man; his gaunt frame and haggard appear-

"My dear fellow, but you have indeed spent yourself in your country's cause!" I said, when we had gripped hands, and he had sunk wearily into "You should have come at the close of the war, instead of staying out yonder gold hunting, as I heard was

home!" he almost wailed. "I might perfectly well. have been in time to prevent the most horrible thing. You remember Lettice

I nodded, for the beautiful girl to whom he had been engaged was fresh ery, but one that made his blood run have been in that of any man who had

reigned a radiant queen. ashamed of his grief.

wasn't South Africa that alongside, wrecked me, Bruce," he said. "I was " 'Lettice!' I said, 'won't you speak to as fit as a fiddle when I landed a month ago. It was what I am going to tell between us?' you, and I am here to claim your aid

fficially, mind."

I had to help out his halting senter in of her hat, and frantically

would, on its merits, as the most presenting himself the next day the the Cromwell road was personating movel and daring bit of villainy I have Miss Nunsham, as a sequel to having ever had before me officially, grip my had given orders that no visitors were do, however, was to admit that there whether she had received the card and picion. the message, the man had given an "But tell me," I said, "how you get affirmative reply, and had practically over the fact that this person ad-

shut the door in my friend's face. He had returned to his hotel, and written a passionate letter to his fiancee, begging her to see him, if only the pledge she had given him held reply. He had waited three days, and

had received no reply to his letter. Petrie had then sought out a mutual When did you last hear from her?" equaintance-a lady at whose house ne had often met Lettice, before he quite out of touch with mails and went to Africa. The answer he got postoffices-in the wild country round was as unsatisfactory as his own re- the head waters of the Zambesi." searches had been. It was well known that Lettice Nuneham had become a a dead wall in the matter of the handrecluse, denying herself to everybody, writing. At least, it increased the difand her withdrawal from the world in ficulty of proving whether the change which she had lived had been a nine was sudden or gradual; also of fixing day's wonder. It had long since be- the exact date of its commencement. ceased to talk about it.

Cromwell road, in the hope that he hand. might waylay the girl, or at least gain . "You have certainly set us a nut to he had seen a man in frock coat of we shall have to verify his contenprofessional cut descend from what tions." ooked like a doctor's brougham, to be

and at last, late on a stormy evening, he had been rewarded with a discov-

"I saw," he proceeded, raising his ever looked upon her fair young face. lack-lustre eyes to mine, "a woman remembered, too, that I had not seen come from the front door and walk her lately in the circles where she had rapidly away along the street. Her Petrie suddenly placed his elbow on glad recognition, and I started off in for an arrest.

gloomy cul-de-sac of coachhouses and den gate to disgorge a tall, lean man, graceful poise filled me with could understand Petrie's impatience stables, with lace curtains and window in a flapping frock coat and silk hat. my office table, and, leaning his head pursuit, intending to have it out with on his hands, burst into tears. His her once for all. I had no doubt that by getting into communication with down the mews a burly man in shirt of brick dust complexion, likewise great frame was shaken with sobs. It she was the girl who was to have been soldier all broken up like that. Presently he raised his head, defiantly unwas terrible to see the big, stalwart my wife, and who on the veldt and in the rays of a street lamp I ranged

Her features bore only a faint resemblance to those of the girl I had known and loved. It was the face of a beast, with the leonine expression + there was a resemblance, and that the + it is quite possible to fix a crim- + speech to till he dragged it out." voice in which she addressed me was + inal act upon more than one + At an imperceptible sign from me the inspector took up the running.

her go? I turned away, and heaven + attention in England, and are + Watching Sparshott closely I seemed tel. I shudder now when I think of what that veil covered."

into his hands again, and so remained

ings. After a sleepless night at the had inclined to the former opinion. He was unable to give dates, but he the woman had really been Lettice Nuneham or some one who had taken her place, the doubt had prevailed: usual, but she had almost immediately heaving hea and, having heard of Radford Shone's begun to use the veil.

I have his report.'

his return in the newspapers.

house and using her name, is an imposter. Shone proved it conclusively

State of decomposition.

There was no denying the force of me, I was early the next morning at not on other business documents."

bankers and solicitors were suddenly ness and finality. will have to act, is a masterpiece. I in the service, will leave his report for you to read "Just sit do own carriage to a lonely farmhouse in fire, you will see." Hertfordshire about the time of the six months, and then to have returned to his work. to Cromwell road, again using her own

Miss Nuneham was in the house, but made away with her. All that I could to be admitted. Questioned as to was a strong prima facie case of sus-

eyes on you?" There are plenty of my photographs in the house, and no one would have

ing a faithful lover who had come back without being thoroughly posted on the of Devon for tracking murderers, and to England in the full confidence that victim's circumstances," was Petrie's

"Eighteen months ago. I have been

That was a pity, for it ran us against come an accepted fact, and people had At that moment a whistle at my speaking tube summoned me imperatively Then had ensued a period of watch- to the presence of the chief commising and waiting outside the house in sioner, and I rose and held out my

"That is just what he said," returned instantly admitted into the house; and the fear that Lettuce might be ill had woman forthwith you would dawdle the case."

'I wish to heaven I had come home, Bruce! Oh, how I wish I had come petulantly that Miss Nuneham was you pulled it off, Scotland Yard would get a light the bruce.

to transact the business of the moment. which kept me for some time. It was myself in my own room again, and sat down to master Shone's report, the enough to bespeak its author's genius. The matter, however, was lucidly put. and when I laid the sheets aside I

at its termination. The address of the man, as a material witness, was given I said. "Can you direct us to him?"

"What could I do, Bruce, all un-strung as I was by the shock, but let + these stories attracted wide + house?"

till a tap at the door and the entrance ance-a change which she took pains of a detective sergeant with a report to conceal by wearing a heavy veil. ner," I chipped in in front of Kryle. reminded him that my time belonged On one occasion he had surprised her while walking in the garden without the officer had retired he reit, and he had been horrified at the been a man in it. You are the only sumed his narrative in calmer mood, alteration. Pressed as to whether the man known to have been there durand related his subsequent proceed-change was sudden or gradual, he ing Miss Nuneham's occupation-if you

success in solving social mysteries, he had called a cab and driven to the rooms of the eminent expert.

"A marvelous man, Bruce," he said, he had voluntarily added that the only ace. "Tom Sparshott is mostly true his eye kindling at the reminiscence. occupants of the house, besides Miss to his word, but there's no call for "I was no sooner shown in than he told me that I had recently returned old woman and her daughter, who had held my tongue because the mistress, from Africa—knew it by the exact acted respectively as cook and house- if so be as 'twas the mistress, gave me shade of the tan on my face and by maid. He had heard that these women a hundred pound to do so. From first the crick in my fingers from using the had been temporarily engaged, and to last the doctor was at the farm half

here nor there. I stated the case to convinced that there had been foul the entrance of the mews, however, I him, just as I have to you, and today play. He had found the farm unoc- wheeled around quickly, and there "Well?" I demanded, somewhat im-patiently, for the story had enlisted being the property of a farmer who collague of what I had seen, and havall my professional interest. I did not worked two farms and resided on the ing considerably astonished him with suggest that Shone might have seen homestead of the other one. Shone had the reason I assigned to the coachthen commenced a systematic search man's mental attitude, I set him a task "It is murder, Bruce!" Sir Angus of the house and grounds, which had groaned in reply. "Shone's inquiries leave no doubt the woman in the leave no doubt the leave no doubt the leave no doubt Cromwell road, living in Lettice's mains of a woman in an advanced I set out to call on my medical friend.

by very cleverly obtaining a scrap of her handwriting, which he compared with letters written to me by Lettice in happier days. There was only a fairt resemblance between the two."

There was no denying the force of the me, I was early the next morning at the eminent expert's reasoning, and the house in Cromwell road. In answer to my inquiry for Miss Nuncham, the footman fired off his stereotyped replant resemblance between the two."

There was no denying the force of the next morning at the mext morning at the mext morning at the mext morning at the eminent expert's reasoning, and the house in Cromwell road. In answer to my inquiry for Miss Nuncham, the footman fired off his stereotyped replant resemblance between the two." My practical mind prompted the question, "How about her bankers?" lawe planned and carried out such a pared to be aggressively rude.

"Tell Miss Nuneham that my visit is official—that I am an assistant com-I understand that Miss Nuneham was the termination of their engagement noted in her signatures on checks, if the absence from the report of all to inform his mistress. On his return scored," replied Petrie decisively. "He brougham at Lettice Nuneham's house utes passed, and there swept into the ascertained that a year ago Lettice's gave Shone's case a lack of complete-

do nothing but protest. But Shone's tor Kyrle. He came at once-a big, evidence of the murder, on which you loosely jointed man, grown iron gray

"Just sit down and read that report, vive the personal note. at leisure, but here is the gist of it: Kyrle," I said. "Mr. Radford Shone Lettice Nuneham was driven in her has been pulling chestnuts out of the

He gave me a shrewd glance, at the change in the bankers and solicitors. back of which lurked something I the grounds of Basildon farm, occu-She is supposed to have remained there could not put a name to, and settled pied by you some time ago. Can you

"With all due deference to the Gower Ordinary misfeasance in this unim- | On arriving from London he had carriage for the journey. But-and street prophet, he hasn't finished his

committed the duty of preventing and detecting crime. The case to which my say that he would call again at the detecting crime. The case to which my same time on the morrow. But on his view that the woman now residing in the brougham.

Inspector Kyrle rose briskly. "If a love-sick baronet can spot a put a name to him," he said. "Shall I work on that line?"

I nodded assent, and the inspector was gone. He was back again just as dressed you by name directly she set I had given him up for the day, and was preparing to leave the office. He had got the name, and the caller was a medical man after all.-Dr. Michael urped her place and her fortune, after him by repute as a specialist in throat abetted by Dr. Bardsley." diseases, and said so.

"Some one's throat will want a hem "I presume that while abroad you pen plaster before this affair is over, corresponded with Miss Nuneham? sir," was Kyrle's grim reply. "If you laughter that greeted my grave words. haven't any important private engagement tonight I wish you would ley!" she repeated, when the terrible come with me and see this coachman, merriment had abated. "Look at that Sparshott. I can't think he's told Shone all he knows, for I have learned done for me! Now will you underthat this Dr. Bardsley was several stand?" times at Basildon farm."

to call while Kyrle was hanging about at my heart, I held out my hand. the Cromwell road, and he had that he had met him in the neighborance were those of a man past his sight of her at a window. A week crack," I said. "I will work it myself hood of Basildon farm. The man had passed thus fruitlessly, except that he in conjunction with one of our best fallen into the trap, and while dislearned that the visitors of the old men as soon as I have read Shone's claiming all recollection of Kyrle, had days came and went no more. Once report, Of course, as he is unofficial, admitted that he had frequently driven claiming all recollection of Kyrle, had again over the vision unspeakable. his master to the farm.

"Queer thing, all this traveling by road when the place is not an hour and I were standing in the weed-grown from Euston," said Kyrle. "Estab-garden of Basildon farm, the gray lishes a wonderful similarity of ideas gables of the old homestead rising between the doctor and the present gaunt behind us. We had come down tenant of Miss Nuneham's house."

Once more Petrie had resumed his haunting of the outside of the house, and at last, late on a stormy evening. In the village, and were now and at last, late on a stormy evening. geon of even greater eminence than at a spot under a laurel hedge had not till an hour later that I found Dr. Bardsley, and to this tried friend already told us the secret, but we I determined to submit certain ques- wished the expert to be present at its tions in the event of Lettice Nune- closer examination. Also, there was caligraphy of which was atrocious ham's former coachman conducting another reason. himself as there was just a chance that he would.

> Shone had set to work methodically boxes in evidence above. Half way who was followed by a fat young man the only servant retained by Lettice sleeves was washing the wheels of a clad in town garments. If Petrie had her there at the commencement of her visit and back to the Cromwell road right, facing us, arms akimbo. would not have been any doubt as to which was which. The tall man "We want a man named Sparshott,"

me, dear, and explain what has come —Murchison's Mews, Earl's court—and between us?'

The fellow stuck his tongue in his "You have arrested the woman. he between us?"

The fellow stuck his tongue in his "You have arrested the woman. he between us?"

The fellow stuck his tongue in his between us a note was added that he was now in cheek and looked us over impudent-said abruptly, as he met us. He had come a note was added that he was now in cheek and looked us over impudent-said abruptly, as he met us. "She turned to me with a startled other service. His name was Spar- ly. On the surface he was a jovial large, protruding eyes, which goggled creature, with a suggestively grog- and rolled like glass marbles-a singu-Sparshott had told a straightforward blossomed nose; but in his little pig's lar feature in one of his spare build. tences with many a question, sometimes suggesting the answer myself; but the story which I dragged from him piecemeal was as follows:

Sparshott had told a straightforward blossomed hose; but in his little pigs har feature in the of his spars of his sparshott had told a straightforward blossomed hose; but in his little pigs har feature in the of his spars of his sparshott had told a straightforward blossomed hose; but in his little pigs har feature in the of his sparshott had told a straightforward blossomed hose; but in his little pigs har feature in the of his sparshott had told a straightforward blossomed hose; but in his little pigs har feature in the of his sparshott had told a straightforward blossomed hose; but in his little pigs har feature in the of his sparshott had told a straightforward eyes lurked a latent cunning that flattened in the of his sparshott had told a straightforward blossomed hose; but in his little pigs have not find a straightforward blossomed hose; but in his little pigs have not flat flattened in the of his sparshott had told a straightforward blossomed hose; but in his little pigs have not flat flattened that the flattened in the of his sparshott had told a straightforward blossomed hose; but in his little pigs have not flattened that the flattened in the of his sparshott had told a straightforward blossomed hose; but in his little pigs have not flattened that the flattened in the of his sparshott had told a straightforward blossomed hose; but in his little pigs have not have not flattened that the flattened in the of his sparshott had told a straightforward blossomed hose; but in his had pigs had have not hav

"I am Sparshott," he laughed, in a deep bass. "And you're 'tees from Scotland Yard, I expect? I guessed NOT ALWAYS RIGHT + you'd be along, after the pumping Mr. Radford Shone gave me. A wonderful associated with the largest carnivora. These stories go to show that + man—read what was in my inmost eart, but what I didn't dare put

"'Angus,' she pleaded, 'I am so sorry + person, and that the deduc- + "It isn't what you told Mr. Shone for it all, Angus. But you must go away and never come near me again. I shall kill myself if you do. Go now, the tions may fit two entirely septhages but what you didn't tell him, that we are after," said Kyrle. "Why did you withhold from him the fact that Dr. + adventures of Sherlock Holmes + Michael Bardsley was a frequent vis-

only knows how I got back to the hotel. I shudder now when I think of + ation of Kryle's knowledge. Yet his Sir Angus Petrie dropped his head + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + answer rang out without hesitation: "Because I saw no such person."

"Then you are in rather a tight cor-"Because there's been murder done at

A moment later it was disclosed as

barbed wire snickers. He explained it all for my benefit and for that of a woolly brained admirer of his who lives with him. But that is neither land been temporarily engaged, and to last the dector was at the farm han a dozen times during the six months."

Kyrle would have questioned him further, but desisted at a sign from Shone had gone down to Basildon farm. me, and we took our departure. At cupied, and that it had remained so stood Sparshott, regarding us with

missioner of police," I said sternly. a rich woman, managing her own affairs? The difference should have been ered in this respect, but to my mind left me in the hall while he went away ot on other business documents."

'That is where Radford Shone has had seen descend from a doctor's handed me the newspaper. Five minroom a woman whose graceful carriage and superb figure brought back the changed for no apparent reason. In On the principle that two heads are only occasion on which, some three fact, they were highly indignant at better than one, I called to my coun- years before, it had been my privilege losing a wealthy client, though as the sels a very long head indeed. That is to dance with Lettice Nuneham at the transfer was quite in order, and con-firmed by Lettice in person, they could messenger to send in Detective Inspec-tirely obscured her features.

"Miss Nureham?" I said, rising. Our acquaintance had never been intimate, and it was not my cue to re-

"Yes," she replied, simply. wish to see me on police business?" "On very serious business. The body of a woman has been found buried in throw any light upon it?"

quite wrong, though I really should be as I could. very glad to be hanged!"

"If a love-sick baronet can spot a a spirit of levity," I said, with purhas respected my message, by the he singled out Radford Shone as the man going into a house, it oughtn't to poseful severity. "Can you explain same train that brought you, and if I most authoritative person present. be beyond the resources of the yard to why you gave your coachman £100 to am not mistaken this is he. conceal Dr. Barsdley's visits?"

replied. "I never gave Sparshott any- Shone, rolling those voluminous eyes Miss Nuneham, should have to be thing beyond his ordinary wages." exorably, "that you are not Miss Nune- correctly dressed for a country trip in as a witness "but some woman who has us- quiet tweeds and gaiters. ham.

counter in this case, save one immedi- in identifying the remains. I must "Aided and abetted by Dr. Bards-

-look at what Michael Bardsley has And she wrenched the veil from her

We boarded an Earl's court train at face, disclosing, as she had to Petrie. Charing Cross, and during the short the indescribable features that were journey my companion described how dimly suggestive of the massive solemhe had procured his information. As nity of the lion. I shuddered away luck would have it, the doctor chanced from her; then, with a very real pity

promptly claimed acquaintance with the driver of the brougham alleging the driver of the brougham, alleging Nuneham. And, more than that, I bid you not lose hope.'

"Ah, if I could think that!" she wailed, as the thick, lace dropped 'You may think it, if you will fully

confide in me," I made answer. On the following day at noon Kyrle by an early train to make a few in-"I thought so, too, though not quite quiries in the village, and were now

Presently the sound of wheels was heard from the road, and a station fly Murchison's Mews was the usual hove in sight. It stopped at the garstrode up the path with the evident intention of taking the stage.



For a moment she seemed over- is no case against the lady who pro- | wisdom in covering in the grave and Ordinary misfeasance in this unimagical and control in such and agreed the country run in such well trammelled grooves that anything like originality of invention in wrong doing as a bracing nerve tonic tonges as a bracing nerve tonic tonges are well-and tonges as a bracing nerve tonic tonges are well-and committed the duty of preventing and committed the duty of preventing and the support.

On arriving from London he had a carriage for the journey. But—and you will grasp the point at once independent on the police!" Shone snorted angrily. "The police!" Shone snorted angrily. Grand the matter. Premature turned down the last sheet. "If Shone is correct in his premises the woman."

The police!" Shone snorted angrily. Grand the matter. Premature down the last sheet. "If we may are turned down the last sheet. "If we may are the police!" Shone snorted angrily. Shone had left the matter. Premature turned down the last sheet. "If we may are turned to turned the form turned to the form turned the turn whelmed, and clutched at a chair for support. | observing complete reticence till we support. | observing to be her." | observing complete reticence till we had sifted the matter. Premature

"Let us wait for Dr. Bardsley," I He raised his cap courteously, looking "It is not a matter to be treated in said. "He was to come down, if he from one to the other of the party till

"Dr. Bardsley? What has he got to "You are speaking in riddles," she do with it, and who is he?" cried am more than grieved that my patient, of his beyond his ordinary wages." of his to the gate, where a second fly mixed up in such an affair. The state "It has been alleged," I went on, in- was depositing a dapper gentleman, of her health precludes her appearing

sinister face of the new arrival. "It tion must have prevented him from The most shocking thing I had to en- struck me that he might be useful informing you that Miss Nuneham congratulate you, Mr. Shone, on your

vords, for Dr. Bardsley was upon us.

"You will be the Mr. Bruce who has requested my attendance," he said. "I

Shone laughed raspingly. "That is "Miss Nuneham's medical adviser," Mr. Bruce-the executive arm," he

Continued on Page 7.

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